

**TOWN OF SOMERS
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, March 30, 2017
2:00pm
Selectmen's Conference Room**

Call to Order: First Selectman Lisa Pellegrini called the meeting to order at 2:00pm.

Members Present: First Selectman Lisa Pellegrini and Selectmen Kathy Devlin and Bud Knorr. Also present were Town Attorney Carl Landolina, Town Clerk Ann Logan, Board of Finance Member Michael Parker and Republican Registrar David McCaffrey and several interested residents.

Discussion of various issues related to the resignation of the First Selectman:

Ms. Pellegrini announced her resignation as First Selectman effective May 1st and distributed a letter she had previously emailed to the Selectmen and Staff. (See Attached.) Ms. Pellegrini explained that she presented the Town Clerk with a different letter that was more detailed with the date and time of her resignation. After questions as to when the exact time was the Town Clerk retrieved that letter and read it to the group.

First Selectman Pellegrini recessed the meeting at approximately 2:13pm to assist a concerned resident. The Board reconvened at 2:15.

Town Attorney Carl Landolina began explaining the process for filling the First Selectman's seat:

- Selectman Devlin and Knorr have 30 days beginning May 2, 2017 to name a First Selectman.
- Selectman Devlin or Selectman Knorr can elevate either one of themselves or a new person to fill the vacant seat to act as first selectman. In the event that the remaining members of the Board elevate one of themselves to fill the vacancy in the office of first selectman they would then appoint someone to fill the ensuing vacancy on the board of selectmen.
- That person chosen can be of any political party. Attorney Landolina remarked that was not always the case, a charter revision made more than 10 years ago, the Board of Selectman is no longer required to fill vacancies with someone of the same political party of the person who is stepping down.
- If Selectman Devlin and Knorr miss the deadline of 30 days, the decision then falls to the elected officers of the town who are of the same political party as First Selectman Pellegrini and who are not on Boards with have staggered terms. There are two individuals that fit the criteria and they include Republican Registrar of Voters David McCaffrey and Republican Selectman Bud Knorr.

Attorney Landolina continued on explaining that a petition for a Special Election can be filed.

- Once an individual is selected as first selectman, a petition requiring 5% of registered voters could be filed for a special election to fill the top seat.
- The petition would have to be filed within 15 days following the appointment of the new first selectman.
- Attorney Landolina explained that if Selectman Devlin or Selectman Knorr elevates him or herself to first selectman seat and then fill the 3rd board seat

vacancy there could in fact be two separate petitions. These petitions would challenge both the appointment of first selectman and the individual appointed to the BOS to fill the vacant selectman seat.

- Thereafter there would then be a special election for both seats.
- Special elections would be held no later than 150 days after filing of the petition.
- If Selectman Devlin or Selectman Knorr elevate themselves and are petitioned the candidates cannot return to their old seat, should they lose the special election.

The Board of Selectmen requested an official opinion letter on this matter from Attorney Landolina.

2017 Small Cities Grant Application:

- a. Discussion and vote on Joint Cooperation Agreement between the Town of Ellington and the Town of Somers.**
- b. Resolution Authorizing the First Selectman to sign the 2017 Small Cities Grant Application.**

Mr. Knorr made a motion to approve Somers participation in the FY 2017 Small Cities Grant Joint Cooperation Agreement between the Town of Ellington and the Town of Somers, and authorized First Selectman Lisa Pellegrini to sign the 2017 Small Cities Grant Application, seconded by Mrs. Devlin. A unanimous vote followed.

Local Traffic Authority Approval:

32nd Annual Paul Bowers Lacrosse Tournament on June 3-4, 2017.

Mrs. Devlin made a motion to grant Local Traffic Authority Approval for the 32nd Annual Paul Bowers Lacrosse Tournament on June 3-4, 2017 based on the recommendation of Lt. Jose Claudio, seconded by Mr. Knorr. A unanimous vote followed.

FFY2016 Federal Transit Administration Section 5310 Program Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Traditional Grant Application:

- a. Discussion and vote on the FFY2016 Federal Transit Administration Section 5310 Program – Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Traditional Grant Application.**
- b. Resolution Authorizing the First Selectman to sign the FFY2016 Federal Transit Administration Section 5310 Program – Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Traditional Grant Application.**

Mrs. Devlin made a motion to approve Somers participation in the FFY2016 Federal Transit Administration Section 5310 Program – Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Traditional Grant Application and authorized First Selectman Lisa Pellegrini to sign the FFY2016 Federal Transit Administration Section 5310 Program – Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Traditional Grant Application, seconded Mr. Knorr. A unanimous vote followed.

Staffing – Seasonal Revenue Clerk:

Ms. Pellegrini received a recommendation from CFO Michael Marinaccio to hire Michael Tolisano as the Seasonal Revenue Clerk in the Tax Office, seconded by Mr. Knorr. A unanimous vote followed.

Approval of Minutes:

March 9, 2017 Regular Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes:

Mrs. Devlin made a motion to approve the March 9, 2017 Regular Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes, seconded by Ms. Pellegrini. Mr. Knorr did not vote. The motion passed.

Adjournment:

Mrs. Devlin made a motion to adjourn the Board of Selectmen meeting at 2:44pm, seconded by Mr. Knorr. A unanimous vote followed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim LaFleur-Recording

Minutes are not official until accepted at a subsequent meeting.

TOWN OF SOMERS

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www.somersct.gov

RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

MAR 22 2017

FIRST SELECTMAN
Lisa Pellegrini

March 22, 2017

TEL. (860) 763-8200
FAX (860) 763-8228

SELECTMAN
Kathleen Devlin
Bud Knorr

Dear Friends, Neighbors and Colleagues,

March 20th marked the first day of Spring, a time of renewal and rebirth and a perfect time for change. I have had the honor of serving as your First Selectman for over seven years and over the years I have often been asked why I serve. I have always had the same answer. I do it because I love my job and I adore the people I work with. I loved the challenges, the projects and most of all working together with each of you to make Somers a better place. We've had remarkable success and looking back I can't help but feel a tremendous sense of pride at what we have done together.

We've obtained over \$9 million dollars in grants that built sidewalks and parking lots, solar power installations, streetscapes and roads. That money enabled us to purchase Camp Ayapo, a true crowning jewel of open space, as well as provide funding for the demolition of the Somersville Mill. By working together we successfully passed seven consecutive town budget referendums on the first try, fully funded our town and firefighter pensions, upgraded ancient fire and DPW vehicle fleets and created a healthy fund balance with minimal tax increases. We have weathered devastating storms and extended power outages and restored the community after the wreckage of Storm Alfred without going out to bond. Together we upgraded our Senior Center, increased Social Service programs, expanded senior housing and improved our recreational programs. We have excellent fire and police services and we are the envy of other towns with regard to the quality of our snow plowing. We modernized our Emergency Operations Center, transitioned from a volunteer fire chief to a paid fire chief, passed a Planned Development District Zoning Regulation and created a culture of quality customer service within town government offices. There are a thousand and one other things that I can list but the reoccurring theme that made it all possible was the cooperation and collaboration of so many volunteers, staff members, groups and organizations working on a common goal. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for the opportunity to lead such a marvelous group of people.

That being said, I now have an amazing opportunity to expand and thrive by assisting another community. After much thought I have decided it is my time to renew and I will be stepping down as First Selectman on May 1st to embark on a new adventure. Granted, change is a little uneasy at first, but know that I will be leaving you in the capable hands of an excellent staff with all things in order and wishes for much continued success.

All My Best,



Lisa Pellegrini